

# Texas Representative Roberto R. Alonzo's

## Capitol Report



### President George Bush Turnpike Western Extension Now Open

Representative Alonzo was an honoree at the celebratory event to recognize the completion of the President George Bush Turnpike Western Extension in Grand Prairie and Irving. The western expansion in the region helps serve the communities mobility and economic stability for the future. The toll road is a sight to see and is now open and operating. The Texas Department of Transportation started this project as State Highway 161 with the goal of spending 11 percent of construction costs with disadvantaged business enterprises. The NTTA enhanced that goal by 8 percent to include minority- and woman-owned businesses and small business enterprises. This is a true success story, not just for Vendigm, but for all organizations that can see their construction programs enriched by diversity participation. The pool of available and capable contractors is growing, which enhances competition and raises the bar for quality.



Rep. Alonzo and Dallas County Judge Jenkins, Victor M. Mendez and other officials.

### Seal of Bilingualism and Biliteracy for High School Students

Representative Alonzo proposes House Bill 921 which will give students the opportunity to have an official seal of Bilingualism and Biliteracy on their High School Diploma or transcript. The benefits of having the recognition seal are abundant in this dynamic country of many bilingual populated cities. This Bill truly helps students reach their maximum potential in education. With more students ready to enter the work force out of high school, bilingualism may give them a competitive advantage in the job market. Students will also be able to show their achievements of another language on their transcripts, which colleges can take into consideration when admitting students. California and New York realize the importance in our global economy to be able to read, write, and speak in another language and have already implemented this into their high school institutions. Students will simply have to show to their participating High School adequate language ability through testing and other curriculum instruction. This recognition will provide another incentive to High School seniors serious about their future.